



## State of Vermont

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
State Geologist  
RELAY SERVICE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED  
1-800-253-0191 TDD>Voice  
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### AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES Department of Environmental Conservation

Waste Management Division  
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Waterbury, VT 05671-0404  
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September 20, 1996

TOM MCCAFFREY  
ST. JOHNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
26 WESTERN AVE  
ST. JOHNSBURY, VT 05819

RE: Petroleum contamination at St. Johnsbury Middle School  
26 Western Ave., St. Johnsbury, VT  
(Site #96-2032)

Dear Mr. McCaffrey:

The Sites Management Section (SMS) has received a site assessment report outlining the subsurface conditions for the above referenced site, submitted by Robert Higgins of Griffin International, Inc. on July 12, 1996. This report summarizes the degree and extent on contamination encountered during the assessment. The tank removed was a 2000 gallon, gasoline underground storage tank (UST).

During the tank pull, soils screened at depths from 0.5 to 13.0 feet below grade (FBG) had volatile organic compound (VOC) concentrations ranging from 200 to 300 parts per million (ppm) as measured by a photoionization detector (PID). The peak VOC concentration of 300 ppm was screened at 7.0 FBG. Neither groundwater nor free phase petroleum product was found to be present. All excavated soil was backfilled since the full extent of the contamination was unknown.

Based on the above information, the SMS determined that additional work is necessary at the site in order to determine the severity of the contamination present. Due to the possibility of contaminant impact to nearby receptors, the SMS is requesting that the St. Johnsbury School District retain the services of a qualified environmental consultant to perform the following:

Determine the degree and extent of contamination, if any, to groundwater. If soil is found to contain evidence of contamination at the water table, then a sufficient number of monitoring wells should be installed in locations which will adequately define the severity of contamination

at the site. All groundwater samples taken should be analyzed for BTEX and MTBE compounds.

Perform an assessment of the site to determine the potential for sensitive receptors to be impacted by the contamination. This should include basements of adjacent buildings, nearby surface water, and any public or private drinking water wells which are located within the vicinity of the site. If any water supplies appear to be at risk from this contamination, they should be sampled and analyzed for BTEX and MTBE compounds.

Determine the need for a long term treatment and/or monitoring plan which addresses the contamination present at the site. The need for such a plan should be based on the results of the above investigation.

Submit to the SMS a summary report which outlines the work performed, as well as provides conclusions and recommendations. Included should be analytical data, a site map showing any potential sensitive receptors, an area map, and if monitoring wells are installed, detailed well logs and a groundwater contour map.

Please have your consultant submit a preliminary work plan and cost estimate or a site investigation expressway notification form within fifteen days of your receipt of this letter so that it may be approved prior to the initiation of onsite work. Enclosed please find a list of consultants who perform this type of work in the area as well as the brochure "Selecting Your UST Cleanup Contractor", which will help you in choosing an environmental consultant.

The USTs at St. Johnsbury Middle School may be covered by the Petroleum Cleanup Fund (PCF) as set forth in 10 V.S.A. § 1941 as long as no private insurance exists which is applicable to this situation. You must provide proof of no insurance before the PCF can be utilized. An owner or permittee of an UST, who is not in significant violation of his or her permit is eligible for reimbursement from the PCF. The owner or permittee must pay for the removal or repair of the UST and the first \$10,000 of the cleanup; there after the PCF will reimburse the owner or permittee for additional cleanup costs up to \$1,000,000. The PCF may not be utilized for cleanup costs for work that is not pre-approved by the Agency. Please refer to the attached guidance document "Procedures for Reimbursement from the Petroleum Cleanup Fund" for further information on this program. Additionally, the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources reserves the right to seek cost recovery of fund monies spent at

the Middle School site if the Secretary concludes the St. Johnsbury School District is in significant violation of the Vermont Underground Storage Tank Regulations and/or the Underground Storage Tank statute ( 10 V.S.A., Chapter 59). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (802) 241-3876.

Sincerely,



Chuck Schwer, Supervisor  
Sites Management Section

cc: St. Johnsbury Selectboard  
St. Johnsbury Health Officer  
DEC Regional Office

RS:AS/SMS/sj962032